

Chief Solano Monument

Sunday, June 3, 1934

SEE.

Official Program

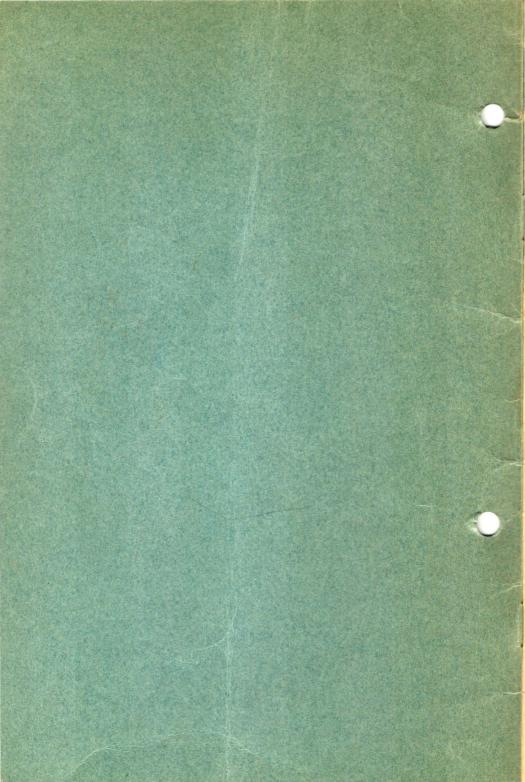
D'A

Suisun Valley

On State Highway, four miles west of Fairfield

Sponsored by

Massassoit Tribe of Fairfield and the Redmen of the Reservation of California



CHIEF FRANCISCO SOLANO

(By MARY JEAN DAVIS)

Just about one hundred and seventeen years ago—not very long in the light of the ages—Jose Sanchez was sent by the Franciscans (who had settled in San Francisco) to explore the territory (now known as Solano County) and to christianize the Indians.

He landed on the shores of the Suisun Bay near the present city of Benicia. The Suisunne Tribe of Indians that roamed all over what is now Suisun, Fairfield, Rockville and Benicia—saw Jose Sanchez and his men crossing the bay at dawn. They were there on the shores to meet him. A terrible battle ensued, for the Indians resented the intrusion of the White Man. But the White Man had guns, which not only terrified the Indians (for it was the first time that they had ever heard a gun) but slaughtered them wholesale. The Indians, however, refused to surrender and fought desperately until Jose Sanchez drove them back into their village at Rockville, or Yulyul, as the Indians called it. Once driven back into the village, surrounded by the Indian women and children, Jose Sanchez felt the Indians would surrender.

And Chief Malica did stop fighting and stepped forward, facing the White Man as if about to surrender. Jose Sanchez and his men waited. But suddenly a weird song arose from the Indian chief's lips. It was the DEATH SONG. The Indians joined the singing. The Chief gave the signal and the Indians set fire to the tipis; then, following the example of their chief, they rushed into the burning tipis—living sacrifices rather than surrender to the White Man.

When the Spanish leader realized what was happening, he commanded his men to rush into the village and to rescue the Indians from this wholesale suicide. Some were rescued, but more of them perished; a few in terror fled to the hills.

The story goes that a certain young Indian by the name of Sem-Yeto (The Brave One) belonging to the Suisunne Tribe, had gone with some companions on a hunting expedition. Upon returning to camp, he found the tipis in ashes, the charred remains of the women and children, and the whole slaughter of the braves by the White Man. It is believed that only a small group first viewed these pitiful remains but it was not long before Indians from neighboring tribes joined with Sem-Yeto and to add their numbers to his in warfare against the common enemy. The Indians who had escaped to the hills returned; and, with one accord, all elected Sem-Yeto as their new chief; for he was great of stature and gifted in wisdom.

But pondering upon the fate of Chief Malica and the White Man's guns, Sem-Yeto decided that to save his people he must not fight; he must compromise with this powerful White Man who mowed down all before him. And not only did he refuse to fight the enemy in the interests of his people but he embraced the religion of the White Man and was baptized by the padres in the Sonoma Mission, which is still standing in the city of Sonoma. His new name was Francisco Solano, after Francisco de Solano, the name of the mission in Sonoma, which in turn was named after a Spanish missionary in Peru.

Many of the Indians following the example of their great chief, became Christians. Thus guided by a leader with deep insight and with vision that could see far into the future—into a future in which the Red Man would be swiftly and completely annihilated if he did not learn to compete with the White Man—the Red Man lived side by side with the White Man in mutual helpfulness and peace. Indeed, the tales are still extant which tell of Chief Solano's kindly greetings to the in-coming pioneers and of his helpful advice in their problems concerning the farming of a new country. For Chief Solano and his men had learned to farm from the padres and were quite competent to advise the stranger.

General Vallejo (for whom the city of Vallejo is named) was the staunch friend and advisor of the Indian chief; and recognizing his ability and realizing the Indians' rights, he advised Chief Solano to apply to the government for a grant of land. So in 1837, Chief Solano petitioned for a grant of land—four square leagues—stating that he owned enough cattle and horses to establish a rancho. The petition was granted, and the Indian became the owner of a rancho that included Rockville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Suisun Valley, and land extending southward nearly as far as the city of Benicia.

So capable an Indian was the great Chief Solano that Spain made him a commissioned officer in the Spanish Army and the American government depended upon him to keep the peace between the Indians and the White Men. So when a certain Mr. Armijo asked to buy a piece of land just above Chief Solano's grant, he was told that he might have it on condition that he did not disturb the Indians living on it and that in case any difficulty arose between himself and the Indians that he take his trouble to Chief Solano, arbitrator and peacemaker.

Fair as Chief Solano was in his dealings with the White Man, it is with regret that the White Man admits that he was not fair with the great chief; for after a few years Chief Solano was forced to sell his grant for fifty dollars to accommodate the selfish wishes of the White Man.

It was a sad mistake and it is to the White Man's credit that he regrets it. It is also to his credit that after one hundred and seventeen years, he is unwilling that the White Man forget the debt he owes this great Indian. After one hundred and seventeen years, the White Man erects to the Red Man a monument in memory of those qualities that are never old—that are great in any man no matter what his color, creed, or race—qualities of hospitality and brotherhood.

Although Chief Solano's death is shrouded in mystery, it is believed that he no doubt, died as he had lived, in the service of his people. An epidemic of smallpox broke out among the Indians sometime in the '40's, which almost completely wiped out the Suisunne Tribe. After the burial of Chief Solano somewhere in Suisun Valley, a few sad Indians without a chief filed up the hill and away, leaving their Rockville home forever.

More or less mystery surrounds the death and burial place of the famous chief, but there is no doubt of the place in which he lived and ruled. His adobe home was in Rockville. After his death, it was occupied by a certain Jesus Molino. Later it was transformed into a stage station. Now nothing remains of the home but the adobe foundation which still stands to testify of this early history, and upon which has been built a modern structure.

So in commemoration of his great life, the Red Men of California under the leadership of Dr. H. V. Clymer, Massasoit Tribe No. 262, have sponsored the erection of a bronze statue in memory of a great man—Chief Francisco Solano.



HON. THOMAS McCORMACK of Rio Vista

State Senator, 15th Senatorial District, California

Senator McCormack is the one who drafted the Chief Solano Monument bill and fostered its passage thru the Senate, being responsible for the success of the measure. He was ably assisted by State Assemblyman Ernest C. Crowley, who fostered the bill in the Assembly.

Sheldon Oil Co.

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PROGRAMME

DR. H. VANCE CLYMER, Master of Ceremonies

1:30 P. M.—CONCERT......SOLANO COUNTY BAND JOHN COLLINS, Director

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The Wilson Motor Co. FAIRFIELD

> Compliments of

Woodard Chevrolet Co. FAIRFIELD

> Compliments of

The Genova Market SUISUN

> Compliments of

The Plaza Garage SUISUN

Compliments of J. S. EVANS

GROCERY STORE FAIRFIELD

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THE MINT GRILL SUISUN

Compliments

Dreith Bros. MEAT MARKET SUISUN

> Compliments of

The Suisun Garage Ernest Garben, Prop.

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Solano County Grocery Co.

Liberty Meat Market

The secret of our success has been attention to quality merchandise. The best brands of groceries, meats and bakery goods are the cheapest to the consumer. Every article we sell is guaranteed strictly as represented. We are proud to offer to the public one of the largest and most complete lines of best clean foods in the county. If you have not been one of our customers we sincerely invite you to be one of the hundreds to take advantage of our low prices.

PROGRAMME

1:45 P. M.—PARADE OF TRIBES AND COUNCILS IN COSTUME.

Led by Wahoo Drum Corps of Concord

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Clark's Grocery Co.

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The O. K. Sweet Shop

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Dr. Carlton Purviance

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PROGRAMME

2:00 P. M.—COMMUNITY SINGING....."AMERICA" Led By Solano County Band, John Collins, Director

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PROGRAMME

2.—ADDRESS......Joseph Knowland Member State Park Commission, Editor Oakland Tribune

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PROGRAMME

3.—VOCAL SOLO......FLORENCE E. PETERSON Great Winonah, Los Angeles

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SUISUN

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PROGRAMME

4.—INTRODUCTION HONORABLE GUESTS...... DR. H. VANCE CLYMER, Sachem of Massasoit Tribe

William C. Hansen

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CALIF.

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PROGRAMME

5.—REMARKS..... REPRESENTATIVE ERNEST CROWLEY
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ICE CREAM
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6.—MUSIC......VACAVILLE MALE CHORUS PROUDLY AS THE EAGLE (Louis Spohr) PRAISE YE THE FATHER (Gounod)

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PROGRAMME

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PROGRAMME

8.—INTRODUCTION..........PAST GREAT SACHEMS GREAT SENIOR SAGAMORE GUY RUPERTO, Vallejo

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Liberty
Shoe Repairing Shop
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Brown's Stationery Store Congratulations

Twin City Bakery

Congratulations

Dr. Albert R. Coons

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E. W. Larson

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County Clerk

BURT SHELDON Auditor

WALTER F. PARKER

JACK THORNTON Sheriff

EDGAR E. LONG

GEORGE WENIGER

F. A. STEIGER Surveyor

DAN H. WHITE Superintendent of Schools

FRANK DICKEY

PHIL B. LYNCH District Attorney

W. T. O'DONNELL Superior Judge



DR. H. VANCE CLYMER
Sachem of Massasoit Tribe,
IMPROVED ORDER OF
RED MEN
Fairfield, California

The guiding spirit and originator of Chief Solano Monument idea

Massasoit Tribe, No 262, was instituted on Jan. 28, 1928, with 45 charter members

The present Chiefs are:

J. A. GEREVAS, Prophet
H. VANCE CLYMER, Sachem
L. E. WEEKS, Senior Sagamore
MARK G. WOODS, Junior Sagamore

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PROGRAMME

9.—INSTRUMENTAL..... SERENADE TRIO

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PROGRAMME

10.—ADDRESS. . SENATOR THOMAS McCORMACK, Rio Vista Introduction by Ex-Senator B. F. Rush, Suisun

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(SOLANO COUNTY SUPERVISOR)

A Member of the Board of Equalization From The Third District

PROGRAMME

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PROGRAMME

13.—VOCAL SOLO.....Luisa Vallejo Empiram, Sonoma

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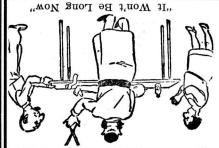
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PROGRAMME

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PROGRAMME

15.—VOCAL SOLO......RUDALFO CAFFARO, Sacramento
PALE MOON (Cadman)
HOME ON THE RANGE (Guion)

Accompanist, Miss Anna Kyle, County Music Supervisor

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Lady's Soles and Rubber Heels \$1.10

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LEN HIGUERA Proprietor

PROGRAMME

17.—UNVEILING MONUMENT. . Mrs. H. Vance Clymer Past Pocahontas, Suisunne Council

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Ground Steak Sandwiches Our Specialty

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Compliments of

FRANK DICKEY

PAST SACHEM OF SAMOSET TRIBE NO. 22 VALLEJO

PROGRAMME

18.—STAR SPANGLED BANNER..COMMUNITY SINGING Led by Solano County Band, John Collins, Director

KANDYLAND

E. PARTRICK

"Eat More Candy-It Sweetens the Disposition"

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M. K. GIANT & SON

"Solano County's Oldest Jewelry Establishment"

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SOLANO COUNTY'S OLDEST DEPARTMENT STORE

VALLEJO

PROGRAMME

19.—BENEDICTION......REV. RALPH RICHARDSON Community Church, Fairfield

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SOLANO COUNTY

Solano County, with its 850 square miles of land, has long been known as "The King of Varieties"—no other county having such diversity of products. From Vallejo in the southern part of the county to Dixon in the north will be found shipbuilding and commerce on a large scale; fruits, grapes, asparagus and grain, cattle, sheep, chickens and dairying. And as to the excellence of these products, the records of the State Fair show that Solano won sweepstakes in deciduous fruits, as well as in grain, for three successive years—her 326 different varieties of fruits winning also, the admiration and wonder of thousands.

Solano County is most favorably situated—lying midway between two of the state's largest metropolitan centers—San Francisco and Sacramento. Its southern line is bounded by water, with ideal harbor and factory possibilities, while in the upper area of the county, fruit, grain and stock-raising has accounted for the excellent schools, churches, business houses, fine homes, good roads, and prosperity.

Back in 1894, at the mid-winter Fair in San Francisco, Solano County surprised the state by winning the \$5,000 gold cup in competition with all other counties of California for the excellence of her diversified products. From that time forward, Solano has won wherever her products have been displayed. At the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1915, Solano County again came to the front and won the highest honors in direct competition with the balance of California—Solano's soil being selected for all landscaping purposes on the Fair grounds. The history of Solano county agriculture, which is its basic industry, dates back to 1870 when the first carload of fruit shipped out of California to Eastern markets, left Vaca Valley—and since that time, Solano has led the state in early fruit shipments to the East.

The city of Vallejo, metropolis of Solano County, has one of the finest geographical locations in California—with deep water at her feet and fertile acres for a background. Between Vallejo and Benicia is the site of the proposed Port Sacramento Valley on Southampton Bay, which, when brought to a reality, will be second in importance only to Mare Island itself.

Here is situated the greatest navy yard in the world, with its thousands of employes—practically all being home-owners and taxpayers of Solano County. The importance of Mare Island to Solano County cannot be over-estimated.

Included in the urban centers of the county are Benicia, once the state capital, now a factory center of importance; Dixon with its back country of sheep, alfalfa and dairying; Vacaville, with its early fruit of many varieties; Cordelia, at the mouth of the rich Green Valley; Rio Vista, on the Sacramento River key to the Delta region with its asparagus to the north, its grain-covered hills to the south; Suisun, with its deep water channel to the Bay, with its cannery and railroad center; Fairfield, the county seat, on the main state highway to the north and east, and adjacent to rich Suisun Valley. Other important communities are Birds Landing, Collinsville and Elmira. Solano County offers as great opportunities to the rich and poor alike as does any other county in the state. By comparison her tax rate is low, her rainfall is heavy, her soil is good, her climate ideal—and her people happy.

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